



chronology: India

EARLY HISTORY

c. 500,000–10,000 B.C.	Paleolithic culture	<i>Homo Sapiens Sapiens</i> emerge in Africa, c. 100,000 B.C.
10,000–4000	Mesolithic culture	
c. 4000	Neolithic period	Sumerians establish first civilization, c. 3200 b.c.
c. 3000–2600	Beginning of Harappa civilization	
c. 2600–2500	Harappa civilization at its most developed	Chinese civilization emerges, c. 2200 B.C.
c. 2000–1900	Collapse of Harappa civilization	
c. 2000–1500	Aryan invasion of northwest India	
c. 1500–500	Vedic age	
c. 1200–900	Composition of the four Saṁhitās: Atharva Veda, Rig Veda, Sāma Veda, Yajur Veda	Hebrew civilization emerges, c. 1200 B.C.
c. 1000	Aryan migration to Ganges Valley	
8th–7th centuries	Composition of the Upanishads	
c. 600	Earliest date for written form of the Rig Veda	

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NORTH INDIA AND MAURYAN DYNASTY

c. 600	Rise of sixteen great states (<i>mahājanapadas</i>)	
c. 563–483	Life of the Buddha	
c. 540–493	Reign of Bimbisara	Roman Republic founded, 509 B.C.
c. 540–c. 468	Life of Mahāvīra, twenty-fourth Jain Tīrthānkara (teacher)	
c. 527	Preaching of First Sermon by the Buddha	
c. 517	Achaemenid empire of Persia captured Gandhara	
c. 500	Rise of Magadha at Pataliputra	
c. 490–459	Reign of Ajātasatru	
c. 400	Composition of the Mahābhārata and Rāmāyaṇa	
c. 362–321	Rule of the Nanda dynasty in north and central India	
326	Alexander crosses the Indus Battle of Hydaspes	
321–297	Reign of Chandragupta, founder of the Mauryan dynasty	
321–296	Composition of <i>Artha Shāstra</i>	
c. 302	Greek Ambassador Megasthenes at the court of Chandragupta	Great Wall of China erected, c. 3rd century B.C.
297–272	Reign of Bindusāra	
268–231	Reign of Ashoka	
c. 260	Conquest of Kalinga	
257–256	Ashoka's 14 Rock Edicts, Kalinga Edicts	
c. 251	Buddhist mission of Mahendra to Ceylon	
c. 250–240	Third Buddhist Council at Pataliputra	
242	Ashoka's 7 Pillar Edicts	
240–232	Minor Pillar Edicts	

184 Death of Brihadratha, the last Mauryan king
Accession of Pushyamitra of the Shunga dynasty

73 Devabhuti, the last Shunga king killed

INDO-BACTRIANS AND NORTHWEST INDIA

c. 250 Bactrian Greeks establish kingdom on Oxus River plains

c. 200–190 Demetrius "King of the Indians"

c. 166–155 Rule of Menander, the most famous Indo-Greek ruler

c. 150 Gandhara art flourishes

c. 140–130 Heliokles, last of the Indo-Bactrian kings

c. 94 Maues, the Shaka or Indo-Parthian in northwest India

c. 78 Kanishka establishes Kushan power as "King of Gandhara"

72 Foundation of Kanvayana dynasty by Vasudeva Kanva

SOUTH AND CENTRAL INDIA

c. 50 B.C.–A.D. 50 Height of trade with Roman Empire Life of Jesus and rise of Christianity, 5 B.C.–A.D.29

27 B.C.–2nd century A.D. Satavahana (Andhra) dynasty

c. 68 Martyrdom of St. Thomas at Mylapore, Madras

150 Rudraman establishes Shaka power in western India

c. 174–203 Height of Andhra kingdom under Yajña

c. 225 End of Satavahana dynasty

c. 255–mid-6th century Vakatakas of Bundhelkhand

c. 325 Foundation of Pallava dynasty

GUPTA DYNASTY

320–335 Chandragupta I establishes Gupta empire

c. 320 Origin of Purāṇas

335–375 Reign of Samudragupta

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375–415	Golden age of the Guptas under Chandragupta II Kālidāsa at court of Chandragupta II
405–411	Chinese pilgrim Fahsien in India at the Gupta court
454	Council of Vallabhi
455–467	Reign of Skandagupta when Hunas invade northwest

SOUTH INDIA

543–566	Chalukyas of Badami established under Pulakeshin I (r. 535–566)	
c. 560–574	Simhavishnu establishes Pallava power at Kanchi	
600–630	Pallava power develops under Mahendravarman	Life of Mohammed 570–632, rise and spread of Islam 7th–8th centuries
609–642	Chalukya power extends under Pulakeshin II (r. 610–642) and struggle for dominance of the south with the Pallavas begins	
752–10th century	Rashtrakutas at Ellora	
c. 756–757	Creation of Kailasanatha Temple at Ellora	

NORTH INDIA

606–647	Harsha Vardhana of Kanauj
629–645	Chinese Buddhist Hsieun Tsang pilgrimage in India
c. 630	Defeat of Harsha Vardhana by Chalukyas
711	Arab conquest of Sind establishing Islam in India
736	Delhi first established as “Dhillika”
c. 750–770	Gopala establishes Pala dynasty in Bengal
c. 752	The Pallava king defeats Chalukyas
c. 780	Gurjara-Pratiharas established at Ujjain
c. 788–836	Life of Shankaracharya
814–840	Reign of Amoghavarsha, the most powerful Rashtrakuta king
c. 836–885	King Bhoja establishes Pratihara empire

885–910	King Mahendrapal extends Pratihara empire	
1077–1120	Pala kingdom becomes powerful under Ramapala	Crusades result in greater East–West contact, 11th–13th centuries
1148	<i>Rajatarangini</i> written by Kalhana	
SOUTH INDIA		
c. 897	King Āditya establishes Chola kingdom	
c. 907	Cholas become powerful under Parantaka I	
939–968	Rashtrakutas dominate Deccan	
c. 973	Taila, a Chalukya of Kalyani, defeats Rashtrakutas and establishes later Chalukya dynasty	
985–1016	Rajaraja I establishes Chola empire	
1016–1044	Reign of Rajendra Chola	
1025	Cholas conduct naval raids in southeast Asia	
c. 1025–1137	Life of Rāmānuja, Vaishnava teacher	
1077	Chola merchants travel to China	
c. 1100	Rāmānuja leads <i>bhakti</i> movement	
1246–1279	Rule of Rajendra III, the last Chola king	
GHAZNAVIDS AND GHURIDS IN NORTH INDIA		
971–1030	Reign of Mahmud of Ghazni	
973–1048	Life of Alberuni Firdawsi	
997–1014	Mahmud of Ghazni in Afghanistan invades northern India in annual plundering raids	
	Muhammad Ghuri defeats Ghaznavids and captures the Punjab	
1175	Muhammad Ghuri's first raid into India	
1179	Capture of Peshawar by Muhammad Ghuri	
1186	Capture of Lahore by Muhammad Ghuri	

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- 1192** Muhammad Ghuri defeats Rajputs under Prithviraja Chauhan at Battle of Tarain
- 1193** Muhammad Ghuri captures Delhi and north India
- 1206** Muhammad Ghuri assassinated in Lahore

DELHI SULTANATE

- 1206–1210** Qutb-ud-Din Aibak found Mamluk (Slave dynasty, or Delhi Sultanate)
- 1211–1213** Reign of Shams-ud-din Iltutmish
- 1221–1222** Mongol raids begin in northwest
- 1231** Capture of Gwalior
- 1235** Capture of Ujjain
- 1236–1240** Reign of Raziyya
- 1240–1246** Rule of “the Forty”
- 1246–1286** Rule of Balban
- 1266–1286** Balban establishes Delhi as center for Muslim arts and scholarship
- 1290** Khalji dynasty established
- 1290–1296** Reign of Jalal-ud-Din Firuz Shah, the first Khalji ruler
Mongol invasions repelled
- 1296–1326** Reign of Ala'-ud-Din Muhammad Khalji
- c. 14th century** Emergence of Chishti, Suhrawardi, and Firdawsi Sufi sects Height of Aztec civilization, c. 1300
- 1301** Ala'-ud-Din Khalji captures Rajput fort Ranthambhor
- 1303** Ala'-ud-Din Khalji captures Rajput fort Chitor
- 1309–1311** Ala'-ud-Din Khalji captures south India
- 1316** Reign of Shihab al-Din Umar
- 1316–1320** Reign of Qutb-al-Din Mubarak Shah
- 1320** Tughluqs replace Khaljis as sultans of Delhi

1320–1324	Reign of Ghiyas al-Din Tughluq I Shah	
1324–1351	Reign of Muhammad Tughluq Shah	
1334	Malabar breaks free of Tughluqs	
1336–1646	Vijayanagar empire	
1337	Bengal under Malik Shams-ud-din breaks free of Tughluqs	
1347–1526	Bahmani dynasty	
1351	Reign of Ghiyas al-Din Mahmud Shah	
1351–1388	Reign of Firuz Shah	
1388–1389	Reign of Ghiyas al-Din Tughluq II Shah	
1389–1390	Reign of Abu Bakr Shah	
1390–1394	Reign of Nasir al-Din Muhammad Shah	
1394	Reign of Ala al-Din Sikandar Shah	
1394–1412	Reign of Nasir al-Din Mahmud Shah	
1398–1399	Tamburlaine's sack of Delhi	
1414–1450	Sayyids rule as sultans of Delhi	
1440–1518	Kabir preaches the unity of all religions	
1450	Lodis replace Sayyids at Delhi	
1469–1539	Life of Guru Nanak, founder of Sikhism	
1480–1564	Life of Karnataka music composer Purandara Dasa	
1482–1673	Deccani Sultanates of Ahmadnagar, Berar, Bijapur, Bidar, and Golconda	
1486–1533	Life of Chaitanya, <i>bhakti</i> Hindu teacher	Columbus makes first voyage to the Americas, 1492
1498	Vasco da Gama establishes Portuguese presence in India	
1509–1529	Reign of Krishna Deva Raya at Vijayanagar	
1510	Afonso de Albuquerque captures Goa for the Portuguese	

CHRONOLOGY: INDIA

MUGHAL DYNASTY

1526	Babur (1483–1530) defeats the Delhi sultan Ibrahim Lodi at first battle of Panipat	
1530	Death of Babur and accession of Humayun	
1532–1623	Life of Tulsi Das	
1540	Defeat of Humayun by Sher Shah and exile in Persia	
1551–1602	Life of Abu'l Fazl	
1555	Return of Humayun and recapture of Delhi	
1556	Death of Humayun and accession of Akbar Second battle of Panipat	
1556–1605	Reign of Akbar	Elizabeth I ascends the throne of England, 1558
1563	Abolition of pilgrimage tax on Hindus	
1564	Abolition of <i>jizya</i> (poll tax on non-Muslims)	
1571	Building of new capital at Fatehpur Sikri	
1573	Conquest of Gujarat	
1575	Building of <i>ʿIbādat Khāna</i> (House of worship)	
1576	Conquest of Bengal	
1581	Conquest of Kabul	
1582	Creation of <i>Dīn-i-Ilāhī</i> (Divine religion)	
1584	Abandoning of Fatehpur Sikri	
1592	Conquest of Orissa	
1595	Conquest of Baluchistan	
1600	Charter given by Queen Elizabeth I to East India Company	
1605–1627	Reign of Jahangir	
1612	East India Company establishes trading post at Surat	

1616–1618	Sir Thomas Roe's embassy to Jahangir; East India Company receives permission to trade in India
1619	Establishment of British “factory” at Surat
1628–1658	Reign of Shah Jahan
1630–1680	Life of Shivaji, founder of Maratha dynasty
1642	Establishment of British trading post at Fort St. George, Madras
1643	Taj Mahal completed
1658–1707	Reign of Aurangzeb
1664	Establishment of La Compagnie perpétuelle des Indes (French East India Company)
1674	Shivaji crowned Chatrapati (Lord of the universe)
1679	Aurangzeb reinstitutes <i>jizya</i> on non-Muslims
1681	Aurangzeb begins conquest of the Deccan
1686	Bijapur conquered
1689	Golkonda conquered Shambuji captured and executed
1690	Job Charnock establishes British trading post at Calcutta
1699	Sikh <i>Khalsa</i> established by tenth Guru, Gobind Rai

MUGHALS IN EIGHTEENTH AND NINETEENTH CENTURIES

1707–1712	Reign of Bahadur Shah
1713–1719	Reign of Farrukshiyar Domination of Sayyid brothers, Hussain Ali and Abdullah, the “king makers”
1714	Rise of Maratha power under <i>peshwa</i> Balaji Vishwanath
1719	Reign of Rafi-ud Darajat, Rafi-ud Daulat, and Nekusiyar
1719–1748	Reign of Muhammad Shah

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1723	Creation of Nizami of Hyderabad by Nizam al-Mulk (1669–1748)	
1739	Battle of Karnal Sack of Delhi by Nadir Shah of Iran	
1748–1754	Reign of Ahmad Shah	Industrial Revolution, c. 1750
1754–1759	Reign of Alamgir II	
1759–1806	Reign of Shah Alam II	
1806–1837	Reign of Akbar II	
1837–1857	Reign of Bahadur Shah II	

BRITISH IN EIGHTEENTH- AND NINETEENTH-CENTURY INDIA

1742–1763	British and French fight for domination of south India as part of global war
1746	Joseph François Dupleix (1697–1764) captures Madras
1746–1794	Life of Sir William Jones
1748	Madras restored to the British
1751	Robert Clive (1725–1774) captures Arcot
1756	Black Hole of Calcutta
1757	Clive wins Battle of Plassey
1760	British defeat French at Battle of Wandiwash
1761	Haidar Ali establishes Muslim power at Mysore
1764	British win Battle of Buxar
1765	East India Company granted the <i>diwani</i> of Bengal
1772–1785	Warren Hastings (1732–1818), 1772–1773 governor-general of Bengal; 1784–1785 governor-general of India
1774	Rohilla War
1778	First Maratha War
1784	Bengal Asiatic Society founded

1786–1793	Charles Cornwallis (1738–1805), governor-general of India
1793	Cornwallis establishes the permanent <i>zamindari</i> settlement
1789–1805	Richard Colley Wellesley (1760–1842), governor-general
1799	Tipu Sultan of Mysore defeated by British at Seringapatam
1801–1839	Ranjit Singh (1780–1839) establishes Sikh empire
1802	Treaty of Bassein
1803	Second Anglo-Maratha War
1805	July–October, Charles Cornwallis, governor-general
1805–1807	George Hilaro Barlow (1762–1846), acting governor-general
1807–1813	Gilbert Elliott, 1st earl of Minto (1751–1814), governor-general
1813	Entrance of Christian missionaries
1813–1823	Francis Rawdon Hastings, 1st marquis of Hastings, 2nd earl of Moira (1754–1826), governor-general
1814–1816	Anglo-Gurkha War
1818	Defeat of Marathas in Third Maratha War
1817–1898	Life of Sayyid Ahmed Khan
1823–1828	William Pitt Amherst (1773–1857), governor-general
1826	Treaty of Yandabo with Burmese
1827	Simla first established as summer retreat
1828	Ram Mohan Roy (1772–1833) founds the Brahmo Samaj
1828–1835	William Cavendish Bentinck (1774–1839), governor-general
1829	<i>Sati</i> becomes illegal

1835–1836	Charles Theophilus Metcalfe (1785–1846), acting governor-general	
1836–1842	George Eden, earl of Auckland (1784–1849), governor-general	
1838–1842	First Afghan War	Opium War, 1839–1842
1842–1844	Edward Law, 1st earl of Ellenborough, 1st viscount Southam (1790–1871), governor-general	
1843	Sind annexed by East India Company	
1844–1848	Henry Hardinge, 1st viscount Hardinge (1785–1856), governor-general	
1845	First Sikh War	
1848–1856	James Andrew Broun Ramsey, 10th earl and 1st marquis of Dalhousie (1812–1860), governor-general	
1848–1849	Second Anglo-Sikh War	
1849	Annexation of Punjab by East India Company	
1852	Second Burmese War	
1853	First railway line opens between Bombay and Thane Telegraph between Calcutta and Agra	
1856	Annexation of Oudh	
1856–1861	Charles John Canning, 1st earl Canning (1812–1862), governor-general and viceroy	
1856–1920	Life of Bal Gangadhar Tilak	
1857	10 May, Indian mutiny	
1858	Queen's proclamation	
1862–1863	James Bruce, 8th earl of Elgin and 12th earl of Kincardine (1811–1863), governor-general and viceroy	
1864–1869	John Laird Mair Lawrence, 1st baron Lawrence (1811–1879), governor-general and viceroy	
1865	Telegraph connection between England and India	
1866–1915	Life of Gopal Krishna Gokhale	

1867	Press and Registration of Books Act
1869–1872	Richard Southwell Mayo, 6th earl of Mayo (1822–1872), governor-general and viceroy
1869–1948	Life of Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi
1872	First census of India
1872–1876	Thomas George Baring, 1st earl of Northbrook (1826–1904), governor-general and viceroy
1875	Muhammad Anglo-Oriental College founded at Aligarh
1875	Mayo College opens at Ajmer
1875–1950	Life of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel
1876	Royal Titles Act makes Queen Victoria (r. 1837–1901) empress of India
1876–1880	Edward Robert Bulwer Lytton, 1st earl of Lytton (1831–1891), governor-general and viceroy
1876–1948	Life of Mohammad Ali Jinnah
1878	Vernacular Press Act Second Afghan War
1880–1884	George Frederick Samuel Robinson, 1st marquis of Ripon (1827–1909), governor-general and viceroy
1880	Battle of Maiwand and Lord Roberts's march to Kanadahar
1882	Foundation of headquarters of Theosophical Society near Madras
1883–1884	Ilbert Bill controversy
1884–1888	Frederick Temple Hamilton Temple, 1st marquis of Dufferin and Ava (1826–1902), governor-general and viceroy
1885	Indian National Congress founded at Bombay Third Burmese War
1886	Burma annexed
1888–1894	Henry Charles Keith Petty-Fitzmaurice, 5th marquess of Lansdowne (1845–1927), governor-general and viceroy

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1889	Ahmadiya sect founded in the Punjab
1889–1964	Life of Jawaharlal Nehru
1891	Age of Consent Act
1892	Indian Councils Act
1894–1899	Victor Alexander Bruce, 9th earl of Elgin and 13th earl of Kincardine (1849–1917), governor-general and viceroy
1895–1951	Life of Liaquat Ali Khan
1899–1905	George Nathaniel Curzon, Marquess Curzon of Kedleston (1859–1925), governor-general and viceroy

TWENTIETH CENTURY TO 1947

1900	North-West Frontier province created
1904	Younghusband expedition to Tibet
1905	Bengal partitioned
1905–1910	Gilbert John Murray Kynynmond, 4th earl of Minto (1845–1914), governor-general and viceroy
1906	Foundation of All-India Muslim League
1907	Congress split between “moderates” and “extremists” at Surat
1908	Newspapers Act
1909	Tilak convicted of sedition Councils of India Act (Minto-Morley reforms) Lord Sinha appointed to governor-general's council
1910	Sri Aurobindo (Aurobindo Ghose, 1872–1950) establishes ashram at Pondicherry
1910	Newspapers (Incitement to Offences) Act
1911	Delhi Durbar Capital of India moved from Calcutta to Delhi Partition of Bengal revoked
1911–1916	Charles Hardinge, 1st Baron Hardinge of Penhurst (1858–1944), governor-general and viceroy

1913	Rabindranath Tagore (1861–1941) wins Nobel Prize for literature	
1915	Defence of India Act	World War I, 1914–1918
1916	Lucknow Pact between All-India Muslim League and Indian National Congress Home Rule movement	
1916–1921	Frederic John Napier Thesiger, 3rd baron and 1st viscount Chelmsford (1868–1933), governor-general and viceroy	
1917	Montagu Declaration	
1917–1984	Life of Indira Gandhi	
1918	Government of India Act (Montagu-Chelmsford Reforms)	
1919	Rowlatt Acts Amritsar (Jallianwala Bagh) Massacre	
1920	Ravi Shankar born Mahatma Gandhi begins first noncooperation movement	
1920–1924	Khilafat movement	
1921–1926	Rufus Daniel Isaacs, 1st marquess of Reading (1860–1935), governor-general and viceroy	
1921–1992	Life of Satyajit Ray	
1922	Chaura Chauri incident Gandhi sentenced to six years' imprisonment Swaraj Party formed	
1924	Gandhi released from prison	
1925	Muddiman Committee Report Sikh Gurdwaras Act	
1925–1931	Edward Frederick Lindley Wood, 1st earl of Halifax (1881–1959), governor-general and viceroy	
1927	Simon Commission appointed	
1928	Nehru Report Death of Lala Lajput Rai (1865–1928) at Lahore	
1929	Mohammad Ali Jinnah's Fourteen Points	

1930	26 January, Independence Day proclaimed by Indian National Congress Salt March Simon Commission Report submitted First Round Table Conference Sir Muhammad Iqbal (1877–1938) calls for creation of Muslim state	
1931	First Indian film made at Bombay Gandhi-Irwin Pact Second Round Table Conference Indian Press (Emergency Powers) Act	
1931–1936	Freeman Freeman-Thomas, 1st marquess of Willingdon (1866–1941), governor-general and viceroy	
1932	16 August, Communal Award Third Round Table Conference	
1935	Government of India Act	
1936–1943	Victor Alexander John Hope, 2nd marquess of Linlithgow (1887–1952), governor-general and viceroy	
1937	General elections Indian National Congress formed government in seven provinces	
1939	Defence of India Act Indian National Congress resigned from provincial governments 22 December, All-India Muslim League “Deliverance Day”	World War II, 1939–1945
1940	August Offer	
1941	23 March, All-India Muslim League moved Pakistan Resolution	
1942	Cripps mission Indian National Congress “Quit India” campaign	
1943	Bengal famine Subhash Chandra Bose (1897–1945) organizes Indian national army	
1943–1947	Archibald Percival Wavell, 1st earl Wavell (1883–1950), governor-general and viceroy	

- 1944** Gandhi-Jinnah talks
- 1945** Desai-Liaquat Pact
27 June–14 July, first Simla Conference
General elections
- 1946** Cabinet mission
16 August, All-India Muslim League “Direct Action Day”
Noakhali riots
Second Simla Conference
Interim government formed
- 1947** Prime Minister Clement Attlee's 20 February statement
Louis Francis Albert Victor Mountbatten (1900–1979),
governor-general and viceroy
3 June plan announces independence and partition of India
14 August, independence of India and Pakistan

INDIA SINCE 1947

- 1947–1948** Louis Mountbatten, governor-general
- 1947–1964** Jawaharlal Nehru serves as prime minister of India
- 1948** 30 January, assassination of Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi
Invasion and annexation (“Police Action”) of Hyderabad
- 1948–1950** Chakravarti Rajagopalachari (1878–1972), governor-general of India
- 1950** 26 January, Indian Constitution comes into force
Rajendra Prasad (1884–1963), first president of India
National Planning Commission established
Death of Vallabhbhai Patel
Mother Teresa (1910–1997) founded Missionaries of Charity
- 1951** First Five-Year Plan
- 1952** First general election
- 1955** Bandung Conference
- 1956** India's first nuclear reactor begins operation
States Reorganization Act
Second Five-Year Plan

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1957	Jammu and Kashmir incorporated into India Second general elections	
1959	Dalai Lama flees to India from Tibet	
1960	Doordashan broadcast from Delhi Indus Waters Treaty with Pakistan	
1961	Goa invaded and annexed	
1962	State of Nagaland formed Border war with China in northeast India	
1962–1967	Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan (1888–1975), president	
1964	24 May, death of Jawaharlal Nehru	
1964–1966	Lal Bahadur Shastri (1904–1966), prime minister	
1965	War with Pakistan	
1966	Tashkent Agreement with Pakistan Indira Gandhi becomes prime minister	
1967	Fourth general elections	
1967–1969	Zakir Husain (1897–1969), president of India	
1968	“Green Revolution” begins	
1969–1974	Varahagiri Venkata Giri (1894–1980), president of India	Man walks on the moon, 1969
1971	Princes’ privy purse abolished Indo–Soviet Treaty of Peace, Friendship and Cooperation 4 December, war with Pakistan in East Pakistan	
1974	5 May, India explodes nuclear device	
1975	26 June, “National Emergency” declared by Indira Gandhi	
1977–1979	Morarji Desai (1896–1995), prime minister	
1980	Indira Gandhi reelected prime minister	
1984	June, “Operation Bluestar” in Amritsar 31 October, Indira Gandhi assassinated by Sikhs Rajiv Gandhi (1944–1991), prime minister	

1985	New Economic Policy	
1987	Mizoram, Arunachal Pradesh, and Goa became states July, Indian–Sri Lankan treaty signed	
1989	Vishwanath Pratap Singh (b. 1931) becomes prime minister	
1990	Chandra Shekar becomes prime minister	
1991	21 May, Rajiv Gandhi assassinated P. V. Narasimha Rao becomes prime minister	
1992	October, Babri mosque demolished	
1996	Atal Bihari Vajpayee prime minister for thirteen days H. D. Deva Gowda becomes prime minister	
1997	Inder Kumar Gural becomes prime minister Kocheril Raman Narayanan, president of India 29 September, India launches space rocket	The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) invites Poland, Hungary, and the Czech Republic to join the alliance, 1997
1998	20 March, Atal Bihari Vajpayee, prime minister 11–13 May, India explodes first nuclear devices 13 May, United States imposes economic sanctions on India Violence against Christians begins	
2004	General elections return Congress to power	
2005	India and Pakistan agree to give advance warning of missile tests	



chronology: Pakistan

1947	14 August, Mohammad Ali Jinnah becomes governor-general; Liaquat Ali Khan becomes prime minister 1947	General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) is signed by major world powers, 1947
1947–1948	War with India in Kashmir	
1948	11 September, death of Mohammad Ali Jinnah Khwaja Nazimuddin (1894–1964), governor-general	
1949	7 March, Objectives Resolution	
1951	16 October, assassination of Liaquat Ali Khan	
1951–1953	Khwaja Nazimuddin, prime minister	
1951–1955	Ghulam Mohammad (1895–1956), governor-general	
1953–1955	Mohammad Ali Bogra (1909–1963), prime minister	
1954	Pakistan joins Southeast Asia Treaty Organization 24 October, dissolution of Constituent Assembly	
1955	West Pakistan Act Pakistan joins Central Treaty Organization	
1955–1956	Choudhry Mohammad Ali (1905–1980), prime minister	
1956	Syed Iskander Ali Mirza (1899–1969), first president Constitution of Pakistan promulgated	

CHRONOLOGY: PAKISTAN

1956–1957	Huseyn Shaheed Suhrawardy (1893–1963), prime minister	
1957	October–December, Ismail Ibrahim Chundrigar (1897–1960), prime minister Foundation of the Awami League Party	
1957–1958	Malik Firoz Khan Noon (1893–1970), prime minister	
1958	7 October, military coup by General Ayub Khan (1907–1974), chief martial law administrator	
1960	Indus Water Treaty	
1962	Promulgation of Constitution	
1963	Pact with China	
1965	War with India	World population reaches 3.3 billion, 1965
1966	January, Tashkent Declaration	
1967	Pakistan People's Party founded by Zulfikar Ali Bhutto (1928–1979)	
1969–1971	Agha Muhammad Yahya Khan (1917–1980), president	
1970	First national elections	
1971	Secessionist war with East Pakistan Bangladesh created from East Pakistan	
1971–1977	Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, prime minister	
1977–1988	Zia-ul-Haq (1924–1988), president	
1985–1988	Mohammad Khan Junejo, prime minister	
1986	Foundation of Mohajir Qaumi Movement	
1987	Siachen Glacier incident	
1988–1990	Benazir Bhutto (b. 1953), prime minister	
1990	August–November, caretaker government of Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi	Hubble Space Telescope is launched into outer space, 1990
1990–1993	Mian Nawaz Sharif (b. 1949), prime minister	

1993	April–May, Balakh Sher Mazari, prime minister May–July, Mian Nawaz Sharif, prime minister July–October, Moeen Qureshi, prime minister	
1993–1996	Benazir Bhutto, prime minister	
1997–1999	Nawaz Sharif, prime minister	
1998	May, detonation of six nuclear devices	
1999	June–July, Kargil War	
1999–2001	Pervez Musharraf (b. 1943), chief executive	
2001	Pakistan becomes a frontline state after 11 September Agra Summit	
2001–	Pervez Musharraf, president	
2002	Referendum, Legal Framework Order, general elections	
2002–2004	Zafarullah Khan Jamali (b. 1944), prime minister	North Korea withdraws from the Nonproliferation of Nuclear Weapons Treaty, 2003
2004	Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain (b. 1946), prime minister	
2004–	Shaukat Aziz (b. 1949), prime minister	
2005	Pakistan and India agree to give advance warning of missile tests; Pakistan fires its first cruise missile	



chronology: Bangladesh

- 1971** 26 March, independence of East Pakistan as Bangladesh First microprocessor introduced, 1971
4 December, invasion of East Pakistan by Indian army
16 December, surrender of Pakistan army
18 December, Indian recognition of Bangladesh
- 1972–1975** 10 January, Mujibur Rahman (1920–1975), prime minister
- 1972** 4 November, Bangladesh constitution institutes cabinet government
- 1975** 7 June, constitution amended to a presidential system, Rahman president
Bangladesh Krishak Sramik Awami League (Bangladesh Peasants, Workers, and People's Party) formed by Mujibur Rahman
15 August, Mujibur Rahman assassinated in “majors’ plot”
Khondakar Mushtaque Ahmed president
3 November, military coup by Brigadier Khaled Musharraf; Chief Justice Abu Sadat Mohammad Sayem, president
7 November, Musharraf assassinated, Sayem chief martial law administrator
- 1976** Zia-ur Rahman military coup
- 1977** 21 April Zia-ur Rahman president
- 1978** Bangladesh Nationalist Party founded by Zia-ur Rahman

1981	30 May, Zia-ur Rahman assassinated	AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome) is officially recognized by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control, 1981
	2 June, Major General Manzur Ahmed killed	
	Justice Abdus Sattar, the vice-president, becomes acting president November, general election, Abdus Sattar president	
1982	24 March, military coup conducted by chief of army staff, Lieutenant General Hussain Muhammad Ershad	
1984	Land Reforms Ordinance	
1985	Jatiyo Party formed by Muhammad Ershad	
1986	November, martial law lifted	
	General elections won by Jatiyo Party	
	7–8 December, South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation inaugural meeting at Dhaka	
1988	General elections won by Jatiyo Party	
1990	6 December, resignation of Muhammad Ershad	
1991	27 February, Khaleda Zia (b. 1945) elected prime minister	
1996	15 February, Khaleda Zia reelected	South Africa adopts democratic constitution ending apartheid, 1996
	12 June, Sheik Khaleda Hasana Rahman (b. 1947) elected prime minister	
2001	10 October, Khaleda Zia reelected prime minister	



chronology: Nepal

KIRATA DYNASTY

- c. 1100 B.C.–A.D. 400** Rule of the Kirata dynasty in Kathmandu Valley Classical Greek civilization emerges, c. 800 B.C.
- 400–879** “Golden Age” of Nepali history under Licchavi dynasty

LICCHAVI DYNASTY

- 400–425** Reign of first Licchavi Vrasadeva
- 875–879** Reign of last Licchavi Mandeva IV
- 879–1200** Medieval period of historical obscurity Greenland discovered by the Norseman Gunbjorn, 900

MALLA DYNASTY

- 1200–1216** Reign of Ari Malla, founder of Malla dynasty
- 1345–1346** Raid on Kathmandu by Shams ud-din Ilyas of Bengal
- 1382–1395** Rule of greatest Malla, Jayasthiti
- 1428–1482** Reign of Yaksha Malla, last powerful Malla
- 1482–1769** Creation of three kingdoms of Kathmandu, Bhadgaun (Bhaktapur), and Patan (Lalitpur) from breakup of Malla dynasty

GURKHA RULE

- 1559** Gurhka principality established

CHRONOLOGY: NEPAL

1743–1775 Expansion of Gurkha principality by Prithvi Narayan Shah

1769 Unification of Malla kingdoms and creation of Shah dynasty by Prithvi Narayan Shah

SHAH DYNASTY

1769–1846 Expansion of Shah territory

1775–1777 Reign of Pratap Singh Shah

1777–1799 Reign of Rana Bahadur Shah French revolution begins, 1789

1788 First Nepal–Tibet War

1789 Nepal–Tibet Treaty

1791 Second Nepal–Tibet War

1792 Signing of Nepal–East India Company commercial treaty

1793 Kilpatrick Mission

1799 Abdication of Rana Bahadur Shah

1799–1816 Reign of Girvana Yuddha Bikram Shah

1801 Treaty with East India Company

1803 Expansion of Nepal in Garhwal under Amar Singh Thapa

1804 Unilateral termination of 1801 treaty with East India Company by the British

1806–1837 Prime ministership of Bhim Sen

1814–1816 Anglo–Nepal War

1816 Treaty of Segauli leads to loss of half of Nepal to East India Company and stationing of East India Company Resident at Kathmandu

1816–1847 Reign of Rajendra Bikram

1846 Massacre of 29 court nobles by Jang Bahadur Kunwar

RANA RULE

1846	Forced abdication of Rajendra Bikram by Prince Surendra Shah	
1846–1877	Prime ministership of Jang Bahadur Rana	London is world's largest city with population of 2.37 million, 1851
1847–1881	Reign of Surendra Shah	
1854	Promulgation of Muluki Ain, modern administrative, legal, and civil codes	
1857–1858	Some 6,000 Nepali troops side with British during Indian mutiny	
1858	Anglo–Nepali entente and beginning of recruitment of Gurkhas to Indian army	
1877–1885	Prime ministership of Rannodip Singh Rana	
1881–1911	Reign of Prithvi Bir Bikram	
1885–1901	Prime ministership of Bir Shamsheer Rana	
1901	One-month rule of Prime Minister Dev Shamsheer Rana	
1901–1929	Prime ministership of Chandra Shamsheer Rana	
1911–1955	Reign of Tribhuvan Bir Bikram	
1914–1918	200,000-plus Gurkha troops join British in World War I	
1918	Tri-Chandra College founded	
1923	Anglo-Nepali treaty and independence of Nepal	
1929–1932	Prime ministership of Bhim Shamsheer Rana	
1932–1945	Prime ministership of Juddha Shamsheer Rana	
1934	Massive earthquake damages Kathmandu	
1936	Foundation of first political party, the Praja Parishad (People's Council)	
1939–1945	Some 160,000 Nepalis recruited for British during World War II	
1940	Arrest of 43 Praja Parishad leaders	

CHRONOLOGY: NEPAL

1941	Execution of four Praja Parishad leaders
1945–1948	Prime ministership of Padma Shamsheer Rana
1947	Foundation in exile in India of All-India Nepali National Congress Nepal legation in London becomes an embassy
1948–1951	Prime ministership of Mohan Shamsheer Rana
1949	Foundation of Communist Party of Nepal
1950	Foundation of Nepali Congress Party
1951	Treaty of Peace and Friendship and Treaty of Trade and Commerce signed with India

SHAH RULE

1951	Demise of Rana power and return of Shah monarchical rule	
1955–1972	Reign of Mahendra Bir Bikram Shah	
1959	New constitution institutes parliamentary government First general elections held and victory of Nepali Congress and prime ministership of B. P. Koirala	
1960	Mahendra Bir Bikram Shah assumes absolutist power, abolishes parliamentary government and bans political parties	
1962	New constitution institutes <i>panchayat</i> system	Cuban Missile Crisis, 1962
1972–1990	Reign of Birendra Bir Bikram Shah	
1980	National referendum on <i>panchayati</i> system	
1981	First elections to <i>panchayats</i>	
1983	Foundation of South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation, consisting of seven South Asian nations including Nepal	
1986	Second elections to <i>panchayats</i>	
1989–1990	Trade dispute leads to closing of border with India	
1990	Creation of Movement for the Restoration of Democracy by United Left Front and Nepali Congress Party	

1990	National strikes and demonstrations against King Birendra lead to dissolution of <i>panchayati</i> system and creation of new constitution	
1991	Creation of Communist Party of Nepal (CPN), Unified Marxist-Leninist Party (UML) General elections and victory of Nepali Congress Party	
1991–1994	Prime ministership of Girija Prasad Koirala	
1994	General elections and victory of CPN-UML	
1994–1995	Prime ministership of Man Mohan Adhikari of CPN-UML	
1995–1997	Prime ministership of Sher Bahadur Deuba leading three-party coalition government	
1996	“People's War” declared by Maoist faction of CPN	
1997	March–October, prime ministership of Lokendra Bahadur Chand leading three-party coalition government	
1997 October–April 1998	Prime ministership of Surya Bahadur Thapa	
1998 April–1999	Prime ministership of Girija Koirala	
1999	Third general elections	
1999–2000	Prime ministership of Krishna Prasad Bhattarai	
2000–2001	Prime ministership of Girija Koirala	
2001	1 June, massacre of King Birendra and his immediate family by Crown Prince Dipendra Bir Bikram Shah, who later kills himself	DNA mapping of the human genome is completed, 2001
2001–	Reign of Gyanendra Bir Bikram Shah	
2001 July–October 2002	Prime ministership of Sher Bahadur Deuba	
2001	26 November, declaration of State of Emergency with 30 percent of Nepal controlled by Maoists	
2002	U.S. military advisers sent to Nepal 16–17 February, biggest attack by Maoists leads to death of 142 people	

2002

7–14 May, Prime Minister Deuba in United States and Great Britain, asking for increased military and economic assistance

22 May, Parliament dissolved by King Gyanendra

27 May, state of emergency reimposed

19 June, international two-day conference for assistance to Nepal begins in London

4 October, Prime Minister Deuba dismissed

11 October–May 2003, prime ministership of Lokendra Bahadur Chand

2003

Launch of Joint People's Movement by five political parties against the king

June, prime ministership of Surya Bahadur Thapa begins



chronology: Sri Lanka

483 B.C.	Migration of people from north India	
377	Establishment of city of Anuradhapura	Mayan civilization emerges, c. 4th century B.C.
240–210	Introduction of Buddhism	
210–161	Cholas rule from Anuradhapura	
161–137	Dutugemunu unifies Ceylon	
103–89	Pancha-Dravida south Indian rulers in Anuradhapura	
48	Queen Anula ascends to throne	
67 A.D.	Founding of Lambakanna dynasty	
112	Gaja Bahu becomes king	
276–301	Reign of Mahasena	
301–328	Reign of Sirimevan; Tooth Relic brought to Ceylon	
400–500	Compilation of <i>Visudhimagga</i> , <i>Dipavamsa</i> , and <i>Mahavamsa</i>	Middle Ages and rise of feudalism, 5th century
411–413	Visit of Fahsien	
429–455	Sad-Dravida rulers reign over Anuradhapura	
455–477	Reign of Dhatusena	

CHRONOLOGY: SRI LANKA

477	Reign of Kasyapa, Sigiriya palace built	
623	Silameghavanna ascends to throne	
684–718	Reign of Manvamma	
769	Aggabodhi IV moves government from Anuradhapura to Polonnaruwa	
833–853	Reign of Sena I	
993	Chola king Rajaraja I destroys Anuradhapura	
1070	Vijaya Bahu expels Cholas	
1153–1186	Reign of Parakramabahu I	
1187–1196	Reign of Nissanka Malla	
1200–1300	Independent Tamil kingdom established in Jaffna peninsula	
1232–1236	Reign of Vijayabahu III	
1287–1293	Reign of Parakramabahu III	
1341–1351	Reign of Bhuvanekabahu	Bubonic Plague (Black Death) spreads across Europe, 1347–1350
1450	Unification of Ceylon by Parakramabahu VI	
1477–1489	Reign of Vira Parakramabahu	
1479–1519	Jaffna regains independence	
1505	Portuguese Don Lourenço d'Almeida arrives in Ceylon	
1571–1582	Portuguese build fort at Galle	
1580	Ceylon bequeathed to Portuguese	
1587–1588	Great Siege of Colombo	
1595–1596	Arrival of Dutch	
1619	Portuguese capture Jaffna	
1623	Portuguese capture Trincomalee	

1656	Dutch capture Colombo	
1658	Dutch capture Jaffna	
1665	Dutch capture Trincomalee	
1722	Coffee cultivation introduced by Dutch	Industrial Revolution, c. 1750
1764	Dutch destroy Kandy	
1780	Dutch build Star Fort at Matara	
1796	British defeat Dutch and rule Ceylon from Madras	
1797	Frederick North becomes governor of Ceylon, Ceylon Civil Service established	
1801	Supreme Court established	
1802	Ceylon ceded to the British by the Treaty of Amiens, Ceylon becomes a Crown Colony	
1805	London Missionary Society established in Ceylon	
1806	British naval yard established in Trincomalee	
1815	Kandy annexed by the British	
1818	Church Missionary Society established in Ceylon	
1828	Immigrant laborers begin arriving from India	
1831	Colebrooke-Cameron Commission of Enquiry report	
1832	<i>Colombo Journal</i> newspaper published	
1834	<i>Ceylon Observer</i> newspaper published	
1846	<i>Ceylon Times</i> newspaper published	
1858	Undersea cable links Ceylon and India	
1860	<i>Lanka Lokaya</i> , Sinhalese newspaper established	
1864	<i>Udaya Tarakai</i> , Tamil newspaper established	
1866	Municipal councils established in Kandy and Galle	
1870	Tea exported for the first time	

CHRONOLOGY: SRI LANKA

1905	First Sinhalese novel, <i>Meena</i> , by A. Simon Silva published	
1921	University College, Colombo, established	Chinese Revolution, 1911–1949
1928	Donoughmore Commission report published	
1931	Elections to first State Council	
1935	Lanka Sama Samaja Party established	
1936	Elections to the State Council	
1938	Radio Ceylon starts Sinhala service	
1942	University College becomes University of Ceylon	
1943	Communist Party of Ceylon founded	
1944	All Ceylon Tamil Congress founded	
1945	Soulbury Commission Report published	
1946	United National Party founded, new constitution promulgated	
1947	First parliamentary elections held	
1947–1952	Prime ministership of D. S. Senanayake	
1948	4 February, independence of Ceylon	
1949	Ceylon army created, Central Bank of Ceylon established	
1951	Sri Lanka Freedom Party founded	
1952	National anthem adopted, second parliamentary elections	
1952–1953	Prime ministership of Dudley Senanayake	
1953	General strike	
1953–1956	Prime ministership of Sir John Kotelawala	
1954	Asian Prime Ministers Conference inaugurated at Colombo Sir Oliver Goonetilleke, first Ceylonese governor-general	

1955	Ceylon becomes member of United Nations	
1956	Sinhala-only bill passed	
1956–1959	Prime ministership of S. W. R. D. Bandaranaike	
1957	Trincomalee air and naval base and Katunayake air base handed over to Ceylon by British	
1958	Communal riots	
1959	25 September, Prime Minister S. W. R. D. Bandaranaike assassinated	
1959–1960	Prime ministership of W. Dahanayake	
1960	Fourth parliamentary elections March–July, prime ministership of Dudley Senanayake July, fifth parliamentary elections	
1960–1965	Prime ministership of Sirimavo R. D. Bandaranaike	
1961	Bank of Ceylon nationalized	
1963	Sinhala made official language of Ceylon	
1965	Sixth parliamentary elections	
1965–1970	Prime ministership of Dudley S. Senanayake	Martin Luther King Jr. assassinated, 1968
1966	Tamil Language (Special Provisions) Act	
1970	Seventh parliamentary elections	
1970–1977	Prime ministership of Sirimavo R. D. Bandaranaike	
1971	State of Emergency, Senate abolished, Court of Appeal replaces Privy Council	
1972	Sri Lanka declared a republic and republican constitution promulgated; name of country officially changes from Ceylon to Sri Lanka; Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam founded	
1974	Women jurors selected for first time	
1975	Land Reform Law	
1976	Fifth Non-Aligned Summit inaugurated at Colombo	

CHRONOLOGY: SRI LANKA

1977	Eighth parliamentary elections
1977–1978	Prime ministership of Junius R. Jayawardena
1978	Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam proscribed, second republican constitution promulgated with president elected for six-year term
1978–1988	Presidency of Junius R. Jayawardena
1978–1989	Prime ministership of Ranasinghe Premadasa
1979	Prevention of Terrorism Act, State of Emergency declared in Jaffna
1980	Open University commences operations
1982	First Test Match in cricket between Sri Lanka and England held in Colombo, Sinhala–Muslim communal clashes in Galle, referendum to extend eighth parliament for six years
1983	Anti-Tamil riots in Colombo, curfew imposed, anti-Tamil riots spread nationwide, national curfew imposed
1984	Bombs explode in Colombo
1985	Ethnic peace talks
1987	Indo–Sri Lanka Peace Accord, Indian Peace Keeping Force arrives in Sri Lanka
1989	Ninth parliamentary elections held, All-Party Conference held in Colombo, Indian Peace Keeping Force withdraws from Sri Lanka
1989–1993	Presidency of Ranasinghe Premadasa Prime ministership of Dingiri Banda Wijetunga
1993–1994	Presidency of Dingiri Banda Wijetunga
1993–1994	Prime ministership of Ranil Wickremesinghe
1994	Tenth parliamentary elections August–November, prime ministership of Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga
1994–	Presidency of Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga
1994–2000	Prime ministership of Sirimavo R. D. Bandaranaike

1995	Operation Leap Forward in northern Sri Lanka, capture of Jaffna	
1996	Shirani Bandaranayake becomes first woman on Supreme Court	
2000–2001	Prime ministership of Ratnasiri Wickremanayake	
2001–2004	Prime ministership of Ranil Wickremesinghe	U.S. space shuttle “Columbia” explodes reentering atmosphere, 2003
2004–	Prime ministership of Mahinda Rajapaksa	